



By the King.

A Proclamation forbidding the eating of
Flesh in Lent, or on Fish-dayes, appointed by the Law.



Hereas Wee, by our Proclamation giuen at Newmarket, the nine and twentieth day of January last, haue declared Our Royall pleasure, for reformation to be had of that excessive libertie, now vsually taken by all sorts of people, to kill and dresse Flesh during the season of Lent, and at other dayes and times prohibited, contrary to Our Lawes; wherein wee haue prescribed certaine Orders, which being well obserued, will meete with many of those abuses, which experience hath discovered to fall out: All which we doe hereby ratifie and confirme, and straitly enioyne all Our Officers whom it may concerne, diligently to attend the execution of the same.

Now, forasmuch as vpon further aduice and consideration had of the inueterate vish of this euill custome, which by sufferance and impunitie is become so common, as reth more then ordinary care to suppress the same; the restraint of killing and dresseing of flesh, (which was the chiefe scope of Our former Proclamation) not being a sufficient remedie to cure the mischiefe, vnlesse there be better care taken also to suppress the vnlawful enordinate eating of flesh on dayes and times prohibited, wherewith Our Subjects haue accustomed themselves, rather for delicacie then for necessitie.

It is therefore Our Royall Will and pleasure, and accordingly we doe hereby straitly prohibit and forbid all Our Subjects, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, within this Our Realme, to eat any maner of Flesh in the time of Lent, or on any other dayes now vsually used as Fish-dayes, without a special Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the


Diocesse, or such other, as by the Law haue power to giue Licence in that behalfe; which we will and command shall bee sparingly granted, and in cases of necessity onely, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to bee proceeded against by Our Attourney generall in Our Court of Starre Chamber, as contemners of our Royall Commandement, and vpon such further Penaltie, as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may bee inflicted on those that shall wilfully offend in this kind.

Further charging and commanding the Lord Mayor of our City of London, the Iustices of Assize in their seuerall Circuits, the Maiors and chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes Corporate, Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers within the seuerall Counties of this Our Realme, That they, and euery of them, fully obey this Our Pleasure, and cause and compell the same to bee obeyed and executed by others, without any manner of toleration, fauour or conniuentie, as they who shall presume wittingly to offend themselves, or to tolerate the offences in others, will answer the same, at their vttermost perils.

And lastly, for the more due punishment of Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, Tauerneers, and such like, who shall forfeit their Bonds or Recognizances by dressing of Flesh, or suffering it to be eaten in their houses this Lent time, and to the end that the same be aswell taken in due forme of Law, as duely certified into Our Exchequer: we doe will and require all Iustices of Peace, aswell within Liberties as without, That at such time as they shall meete within their seuerall Diuisions for the taking of such Bonds and Recognizances, That they giue notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, to attend them for that purpose: Of whom we will require a strict Accompt for the Legall taking, and returning of the same Bonds and Recognizances into Our Exchequer; The sayd Clerkes of the Peace and their Deputies, taking for the making and certifying of the same Recognizances, of euery Inne-keeper, Tintner, Ordinary-keeper, and Cooke, the like Fee of ii. s. vi. d. as hath bene accustomed to be taken by the Clerke of the Peace for Our County of Middlesex, for euery such Recognizance, and of euery Alehouse-keeper the Fee of xii. d. onely, and no more.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster, the sixt day of February, in the Sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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